

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant United States Attorney Jason M. Ohta (619)557-6220

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - May 20, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today that Christopher Michael Hafer was arraigned this morning in federal district court in San Diego before Magistrate Judge Anthony J. Battaglia on a two-count indictment charging him with bribery of a public official and bringing in an illegal alien for financial gain.

According to the indictment, on May 5, 2004, Hafer gave \$500 to a United States Customs and Border Protection officer, in an attempt to induce the officer to allow an illegal alien to enter the United States without proper inspection. The indictment further alleges that Hafer was bringing an illegal alien into the United States for financial gain.

United States Attorney Lam said that “This defendant tried to buy a law enforcement agent, and he failed. This case is a testament to the integrity of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and its agents.”

United States Attorney Lam also praised the efforts of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Professional Responsibility Special Agents, who conducted the investigation culminating in this indictment.

Hafer is next scheduled to be in court on June 25, 2004, before United States District Court Judge William Q. Hayes for a motion hearing.

DEFENDANT

Christopher Michael Hafer

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Number of Counts: Two

Violations: Title 18, U.S.C. §201(b)(1)(C) - Bribery of Public Official.
The charge of bribery of public official carries a maximum penalty of fifteen years of imprisonment, a maximum \$250,000 fine. This charge also carries a mandatory \$100 special assessment and a maximum of five years of supervised release.

Title 8, U.S.C. § 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii) - Bringing in Illegal Aliens for Financial Gain.
The charge of bringing in illegal aliens for financial gain carries a maximum penalty of ten years, but not less than three years of imprisonment, a maximum \$250,000 fine, a mandatory \$100 special assessment and a maximum of three years of supervised release.

AGENCY

Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Professional Responsibility

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.